

FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

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ROCKET SCIENTIST WOWS DELTA LIBRARY

Dr. Neal Brown, the popular and charismatic rocket scientist from UAF, visited the Delta Library recently to present his program on the Aurora. More than 75 people filled the library Alaskana room to watch his amazing slide show, learn the science behind the aurora, and even get tips on photographing our amazing Northern Lights.

"People were packed in like...well, like electrons, I guess!" said Library Director, Joyce McCombs. "We literally ran out of seating and also had visitors who had never come to the library before, it was amazing." Mother Nature helped out, too, with a whole week's worth of great aurora prior to the program. After the program, and with cups of cocoa and hot cider in hand, everyone scooted outside to gaze up and look for signs of aurora.

"We even turned off the parking lot lights so it would be darker and easier to see" said Joyce. Recent solar flares have made aurora viewing in Delta and in Fairbanks a nightly ritual. "Nobody is getting much sleep around here," Joyce said. "But it's worth being tired in the morning when you see that amazing sky".

Evening programs, concerts and other events at the library are sponsored by the Delta Library Association Board and supported with funding from Fort Greely Army Post. Appearing next at the library is everyone's favorite Alaska traveler, Ned Rozell, author of "Walking My Dog, Jane" on Saturday May 7. (Thanks to Joyce McCombs for this item)

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS PRESENTS WORKING DOGS

Alaska State Library's Historical Collections has a new online exhibit to honor the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, which was won in record time by John Baker. Baker, an Inupiaq, drove a team of dogs born and trained on the coast near his home town of Kotzebue. The new exhibit, titled Working Dogs to Racing Dogs, shows images of some of the many dogs brought to Alaska during the gold rushes, with the earliest images from 1898. The first official sled dog race was the All Alaska Sweepstakes, organized by the kennel club of Nome

in 1908. The first “ladies race” was in 1914, held between the mining towns of Iditarod and Flat. Following in a long and colorful tradition, the Iditarod race today commemorates all the early mushers who are a part of Alaska’s heritage. The exhibit can be found at <http://library.state.ak.us/hist/exhibits/WorkingDogs.html>

KENAI COMMUNITY LIBRARY TO REOPEN MARCH 28TH

Mary Jo Joiner reports that the Kenai Community Library closed on March 7 and will re-open on March 28th. The library is squeezing into the new addition while they remodel the “old” part. Here are a few articles on the activity:

On the move: Volunteers, librarians ready addition at Kenai library

By Karen Garcia | Peninsula Clarion, Monday March 14, 2001

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/031411/new_799488157.shtml

New edition — Movers check out library expansion (Incorrectly lists reopening date)

By Jenny Neyman, Redoubt Reporter, March 16, 2011

<http://redoubtreporter.wordpress.com/2011/03/16/new-edition-%e2%80%94-movers-check-out-library-expansion/>

LISTEN HOW ALASKA AVIATION MUSEUM SLASHED ENERGY COSTS

The program of Alaska State Museum’s Museum Services Chat 8 was a presentation by Norm Lagasse. He spoke on the LED lighting improvements that were made at the Alaska Aviation Museum (AAM) in Anchorage. Those changes led to a 75% reduction in AAM’s utility bill.

A bonus is that the museum is better lighted than before, as is shown by some before and after pictures in Norm Lagasse’s presentation slides. His slides and an Elluminate recording of his talk can be found at <http://www.museums.state.ak.us/ASMChat.html>. The next Museum Services Web Chat will be on April 13, 2011.

DRAWINGS OF ROBERT MAYOKOK ARE ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH AT SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM IN SITKA

For the month of April, the Sheldon Jackson Museum will exhibit nine drawings by Inupiaq artist Robert Mayokok (1903-1983). These original drawings were given to the museum by the artist during the 1960s. Mayokok was a person of many talents, best described in an article by Yvonne Mozee:

“He was a reindeer herder and a lecturer, a deck hand and a walrus hunter, a news broadcaster and a mess boy, a fox trapper and a church translator, a drifter and a multi-published author.”

According to Dorothy Jean Ray, an expert on Inupiaq art, Mayokok should be included along with James Kivotoruk Moses and George Aden Ahgupuk as the first professional Inupiaq artists, “for all of them were eventually able to make a living from their artwork.”

The drawings will be on exhibit at Sheldon Jackson Museum from April 1 through April 30. Winter hours are from 10:00am to 4:00pm Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3 for adults; no admission is charged for those 18 and under. The Sheldon Jackson Museum is located at 104 College Drive in Sitka.

Taken from the press release at

http://www.museums.state.ak.us/documents/sjm/artifacts/april_2011.pdf.

RESOURCES RELATED TO THE JAPANESE QUAKE AND TSUNAMI

Since the devastating 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan, followed by increasingly dire pronouncements about the state of affected nuclear facilities, many are wondering about sources for authoritative information. Although this may be a case of information overload, there are a couple of sites that may help you wade through it:

- The State of Alaska has general information about emergency preparedness and the possibility of radiation affecting our state at the Div. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <http://www.ready.alaska.gov/>. For information about what to do in a radiological emergency, see the Dept. of Health & Social Services' Preparedness website at <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/prepared/radiological.htm>.
- The National Library of Medicine's Disaster Information Management Research Center has provides direct links to information on the current emergency as well as to background information at <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/japan2011.html>. See especially the Free Resources from Publishers if you're supporting a response team.
- Google Crisis Response's Resources related to the 2011 Japan Crisis is online at <http://www.google.com/crisisresponse/japanquake2011.html>

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